

MANO Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2006

A Round-Table Discussion
The State of Mediation in Northeast Ohio

The discussion began with a review of the successes for 2005

- Greater acceptance of Mediation
- Growth of Mediation in the courts – Judges/Magistrates are allies, want settlement of cases
- Attorneys/judges are beginning to refer business to mediators
- Judge O'Malley (Cuyahoga) is starting a Mediation program for her court
- Judge Ed Schneider (Summit) is starting a Mediation program for his court
- Media Coverage – Mediation is more visible
Many articles about usage in Business, Schools, Unions
- Better Partnering between Attorneys & Mediators
- Law firms (nation wide) are establishing Mediation Departments
- Academia – Mediation added as a course @ Case Western
Kent State & Cleveland State – ADR Classes
- Greater acceptance of differing models of Mediation within the field
- Have a State and National Mediation Month/Day
Ohio: May 7th
US: October 20th
- There is a trend toward “specialization” in mediation; specialization will lead to more business.
- The PA mediation programs in restorative justice way ahead of OH

The Major Challenges that Mediators face

- How to effectively promote private practices
- Too much pro bono work being done – trivializes the field
- Must take a stand on guidelines/limits for pro bono work
- Need for Legislative support – increased funding for Mediation programs
- Need greater visibility in the local communities
- Need better relationships with Bar Associations, State Legislators
- Mentoring new Mediators
- Internal MANO effectiveness
 - > Restructuring of meetings
 - > Quarterly Round-Table Discussion
 - Happening in the ADR field
 - Best Practices
- Regional groups do not have a voice in Columbus

Major Education topics for 2006

- Domestic Violence Training
See SCONET Calendar on MANO website

- Practice Building Opportunity's
- Invite Judges/Legislators to Round-Table Discussions

Ideas for Promoting Mediation in Ohio

- MANO representation at all Bar Association Meetings
- MANO representative at OSBA Meetings
- MANO representation in Columbus
Speak with one-voice at the Summit
Communicate MANO issues
- Participation in Mediation Month Events
- Press Releases to Media
- MANO representation to Legislators to promote mediation &
Encourage them to budget money for mediation programs.
- Outreach Education to Schools, Speak on Radio/TV programs
- Mayor's Party

Topics that require more conversation

- Pro Bono Work
- Summit Meetings
- Economic Opportunities
- Promoting Mediation
- Community Service Programs
- Marketing
- MANO – the organization
- Court Liason
- "What's the Buzz"
- Meetings with Judicial/Legislative Guests
- Grant Writing